



*"People
helping people
help
themselves"*

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
State of Indiana

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083

E. Mitchell Roob Jr., Secretary

TO: First Steps Stakeholders
From: Dawn Downer, Part C Coordinator
Date: August 4, 2005
Re: Promulgation of changes to First Steps Rules

As you are aware, First Steps is working with the ICC and the stakeholder committee to look at necessary changes for the First Steps system. Through their hard work, the group has made several recommendations, including new guidelines for eligibility. Based on the recommendations of the committee, feedback from various stakeholders and the deliberation of the Administration, the program has posted proposed changes to the eligibility criteria. You may find a description of the proposed eligibility guidelines at: http://www.state.in.us/fssa/first_step/index.html.

In order to implement changes to eligibility, the State is required to amend the current rules governing First Steps, redefining the eligibility criteria. Due to the many requirements in the rule amendment process, implementation of new eligibility guidelines is not anticipated prior to 2006.

In addition to the changes in eligibility, First Steps will also proceed with amendments to the current rule, allowing for the implementation of the new legislation regarding cost participation. Like the changes to eligibility, these changes will require amendment to the current rules and will be implemented in 2006.

Attached is a draft outline of the rule amendment process. As you can see, the process allows for public comment. As the dates of the public hearings and comment period are finalized, a notice will be widely distributed, as well as published on the First Steps web page. If you have questions about the proposed changes or the rules process, please feel welcome to e-mail First Steps at FirstStepsWeb@fssa.state.in.us.





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**First Steps
Timelines for Proposed Rule Amendment
8/4/2005**

- 9/9/2005: FSSA will submit proposed rule to LSA for publication
- 9/23/2005: Notice of Public Hearings will be published in the Indianapolis Star and 4 additional newspapers, posted on the First Steps web site and distributed via e-mail to First Steps stakeholders.
- 11/1/2005 through 11/11/2005, three public hearings will be held throughout the state and continue to receive written public comment.
- 12/13/2005: Review public comment and revise rule as necessary.
- 12/27/2005: Submit final rule and background material to FSSA Committee
- 1/9/2006: DFR Director adopts final rule
- 1/10/2006: Publish notice of adoption of final rule and submit rule to Attorney General
- 2/24/2006: Final rule submitted to the Governor's office
- 3/13/2006: Final rule submitted to the Secretary of State
- 4/17/2006: Tentative effective date of the rule amendment

Please note that the above dates are based on statutory requirements and in many situations may not be shortened. Due to the intricacies of the rule process, the dates are also dependant on many variable factors and are not firm. The dates are however provided as a guide.

